

THE CATHOLIC PARISH OF ST MARGARET ALL SAINTS

St Margaret's Church, Barking Road E16 4HB | St Margaret's Convent Chapel, Bethel Avenue E16 4JU

Tel: 0207 476 4129 | Email: canningtown@brcdt.org | Website: www.smct.church

Parish Priest: Monsignor John Armitage

FIFTH SUNDAY OF LENT | 22nd MARCH 2026 |

First reading

Ezekiel 37:12-14

Thus says the Lord God: Behold, I will open your graves and raise you from your graves, O my people. And I will bring you into the land of Israel. And you shall know that I am the Lord, when I open your graves, and raise you from your graves, O my people. And I will put my Spirit within you, and you shall live, and I will place you in your own land. Then you shall know that I am the Lord; I have spoken, and I will do it, declares the Lord.

With the Lord there is mercy, in him is plentiful redemption.

Out of the depths I cry to you, O Lord; Lord, hear my voice! O let your ears be attentive to the sound of my pleadings.

With the Lord there is mercy, in him is plentiful redemption.

If you, O Lord, should mark iniquities, Lord, who could stand? But with you is found forgiveness, that you may be revered.

With the Lord there is mercy, in him is plentiful redemption.

I long for you, O Lord, my soul longs for his word. My soul awaits the Lord more than watchmen for daybreak.

With the Lord there is mercy, in him is plentiful redemption.

More than watchmen for daybreak, let Israel hope for the Lord. For with the Lord there is mercy, in him is plentiful redemption. It is he who will redeem Israel from all its iniquities.

With the Lord there is mercy, in him is plentiful redemption.

Second reading

Romans 8:8-11

Brothers and Sisters: Those who are in the flesh cannot please God. You, however, are not in the flesh but in the Spirit, if in fact the Spirit of God dwells in you. Anyone who does not have the Spirit of Christ does not belong to him. But if Christ is in you, although the body is dead because of sin, the Spirit is life because of righteousness. If the Spirit of him who raised Jesus from the dead dwells in you, he who raised Christ Jesus from the dead will also give life to your mortal bodies through his Spirit who dwells in you.

Glory to you, O Christ, Son of the living God. I am the resurrection and the life, says the Lord. Everyone who believes in me shall never die. Glory to you, O Christ, Son of the living God.

Gospel John 11:1-45

At that time: A certain man was ill, Lazarus of Bethany, the village of Mary and her sister Martha. It was Mary, who anointed the Lord with ointment and wiped his feet with her hair, whose brother Lazarus was ill. So the sisters sent to him, saying, 'Lord, he whom you love is ill.' But when Jesus heard it he said, 'This illness does not lead to death. It is for the glory of God, so that the Son of God may be glorified through it.' Now Jesus loved Martha and her sister and Lazarus. So, when he heard that Lazarus was ill, he stayed two days longer in the place where he was. Then after this he said to the disciples, 'Let us go to Judea again.' The disciples said to him, 'Rabbi, the Jews were just now seeking to stone you, and are you going there again?' Jesus answered, 'Are there not twelve hours in the day? If anyone walks in the day, he does not stumble, because he sees the light of this world. But if anyone walks in the night, he stumbles, because the light is not in him.' After saying these things, he said to them, 'Our friend Lazarus has fallen asleep, but I go to awaken him.' The disciples said to him, 'Lord, if he has fallen asleep, he will recover.' Now Jesus had spoken of his death, but they thought that he meant taking rest in sleep. Then Jesus told them plainly, 'Lazarus has died, and for your sake I am glad that I was not there, so that you may believe. But let us go to him.' So Thomas, called the Twin, said to his fellow disciples, 'Let us also go, that we may die with him.' Now when Jesus came, he found that Lazarus had already been in the tomb four days. Bethany was near Jerusalem, about two miles off, and many of the Jews had come to Martha and Mary to console them concerning their brother. So when Martha heard that Jesus was coming, she went and met him, but Mary remained seated in the house. Martha said to Jesus, 'Lord, if you had been here, my brother would not have died. But even now I know that whatever you ask from God, God will give you.' Jesus said to her, 'Your brother will rise again.' Martha said to him, 'I know that he will rise again in the resurrection on the last day.' Jesus said to her, 'I am the resurrection and the life. Whoever believes in me, though he die, yet shall he live, and everyone who lives and believes in me shall never die. Do you believe this?' She said to him, 'Yes, Lord; I believe that you are the Christ, the Son of God, who is coming into the world.' When she had said this, she went and called her sister Mary, saying in private, 'The Teacher is here and is calling for you.' And when she heard it, she rose quickly and went to him. Now Jesus had not yet come into the village but was still in the place where Martha had met him. When the Jews who were with her in the house, consoling her, saw Mary rise quickly and go out, they followed her, supposing that she was going to the tomb to weep there. Now when Mary came to where Jesus was and saw him, she fell at his feet, saying to him, 'Lord, if you had been here, my brother would not have died.' When Jesus saw her weeping, and the Jews who had come with her also weeping, he was deeply moved in his spirit and greatly troubled. And he said, 'Where have you laid him?' They said to him, 'Lord, come and see.' Jesus wept. So the Jews said, 'See how he loved him!' But some of them said, 'Could not he who opened the eyes of the blind man also have kept this man from dying?' Then Jesus, deeply moved again, came to the tomb. It was a cave, and a stone lay against it. Jesus said, 'Take away the stone.' Martha, the sister of the dead man, said to him, 'Lord, by this time there will be a smell, for he has been dead four days.' Jesus said to her, 'Did I not tell you that if you believed you would see the glory of God?' So, they took away the stone. And Jesus lifted up his eyes and said, 'Father, I thank you that you have heard me. I knew that you always hear me, but I said this on account of the people standing around, that they may believe that you sent me.' When he had said these things, he cried out with a loud voice, 'Lazarus, come out.' The man who had died came out, his hands and feet bound with linen strips, and his face wrapped with a cloth. Jesus said to them, 'Unbind him, and let him go.' Many of the Jews therefore, who had come with Mary and had seen what he did, believed in him.

FEAST | MASS TIMES | INTENTIONS | EVENTS

Sunday Hymn Numbers 10am & 12pm Masses 749|929|938|809

Date & Feast	Time	Intention	Location	Parish Events in Parish Centre
Saturday, 21 st Saturday of the Fourth Week of Lent	5.00 pm 6.30 pm	Confessions Chiemecie Odoeme - TG Imade Ojefua - TG	St Margaret's St Margaret's	12.00 Baptisms
Sunday, 22 nd Fifth Sunday of Lent	10.00 am 12.00 pm 6.00 pm	Burcheri Family - INT Patrisia & Rashid - INT Paul Kudahe - RIP Ray Livermore - RIP Wagner, Irley, Ito Dwaly Family - INT	Convent Chapel St Margaret's St Margaret's	
Monday, 23 rd Monday of the Fifth Week of Lent	9.30 am	Maria Fitzgerald - INT	Chapel in the Convent	10.30 - 12.00 Parish Food Bank 5.30-6.30 pm PARISH SURGERY 18.30 - Adult Confirmation Class
Tuesday, 24 th Tuesday of the Fifth Week of Lent	9.30 am	Theresa Mallo Jinehu - RIP Maria De Lourdes Andrade - RIP	St Margaret's	12.00 - 2.00 - Nifty Fifties
Wednesday, 25 th The Annunciation of the Lord	9.30 am	Intentions of Divine Love	St Margaret's	10.30 - 12.00 Parish Food Bank 19.00 - AA Meeting
Thursday, 26 th Thursday of the Fifth Week of Lent	7.00 pm 7.30-8.30	Jose Antonio Gomes - RIP Confessions & Adoration	St Margaret's St Margaret's	18.00 - 21.00 West Ham Sea Cadets
Friday, 27 th Friday of the Fifth Week of Lent	9.15 am 7.00 pm	Steven Rodrigues - RIP STATIONS OF THE CROSS	Convent Chapel St Margarets	18.00 Legion of Mary 19.00 ARISE Young Adults Group
Saturday, 28 th Saturday of the Fifth Week of Lent	5.00 pm 6.30 pm	Confessions Neil McDonagh - INT	St Margaret's St Margaret's	
Sunday, 29 th Palm Sunday of the Passion of the Lord	10.00 am 12.00 pm 6.00 pm	Lisa Albery - INT Joesph Thevarajah - RIP Aidan & Admim - RIP Boniface Pangawe - RIP	Convent Chapel St Margaret's St Margaret's	
Other Sunday Masses	09.00 am 12.00 pm 5.00 pm	Romanian Mass (Latin Rite)1 Romanian Mass (Greek Catholic) Latin Mass (Extraordinary Rite)	St Margaret's Convent Chapel Convent Chapel	

MEDITATION

Our Gospel on this day, the fifth Sunday of Lent, is again taken from the Gospel according to John. The reading from John continues the break from Cycle A's focus on the Gospel of Matthew. Today's Gospel reading recounts another sign, or miracle, found in John's Gospel, the raising of Lazarus. As our catechumens move closer to the celebration of their Baptisms at the Triduum, today's reading invites us to reflect upon what it means to call Jesus the Resurrection and the life.

The context for the story of the raising of Lazarus is the Jewish leaders' growing animosity toward Jesus. Jesus has been in Jerusalem, taking part in the feast of the Dedication, which we have come to know as Hanukkah. The people have been pressing him to declare plainly whether he is the Messiah. Jesus tells them to look to his works, which testify to his coming from God. Many do not believe Jesus, however, and some try to stone him for blasphemy.

Into this scene of confrontation, Mary and Martha, the sisters of Lazarus, send word to Jesus that his friend is ill. Jesus is said to love Mary, Martha, and Lazarus, but he delays his journey for two days. The delay heightens the drama and shows Jesus' obedience to God, who is to be glorified through Lazarus's resurrection. When Jesus finally declares that he will journey to Bethany, his disciples fear for his life. Thomas declares that he and the other disciples should prepare to die with Jesus.

The scene described at Bethany is a sad one. Martha meets Jesus weeping and saying that if Jesus had been there, Lazarus would not have died. Yet she remains confident that God will do whatever Jesus asks. Martha affirms her belief that there will be a resurrection of the dead in the last days. Then Martha's sister, Mary, comes to Jesus with the same confidence, saying that Jesus could have cured Lazarus. Jesus asks to be brought to Lazarus's tomb where he prays and calls Lazarus out from the tomb. At this sign, many come to believe in Jesus, but others take word of the miracle to the Jewish authorities, who begin their plans for Jesus' death.

Set against the backdrop of Jesus' impending death, many elements of the raising of Lazarus foreshadow the good news of Jesus' own Resurrection. Jesus, facing the conflict with the Jewish authorities, acts in complete obedience to God. In raising Lazarus, Jesus shows his power over death so that when Jesus dies, those who believe in him might remember that and take hope. Just as Jesus calls for the stone to be rolled away from Lazarus's tomb, so too will the disciples find the stone rolled away from Jesus' tomb.

With our catechumens preparing for their Baptism at Easter, the Gospel today calls us to reflect on Baptism as a dying and rising with Jesus. In Baptism we die to sin's power over us, rising as children of God. In Baptism we join ourselves with Christ, who conquered death once and for all so that we who believe in him may have eternal life. With Martha and Mary, we are called to profess our belief that Jesus is indeed the Resurrection and the life.

WEEKLY NOTICES

READERS NEEDED FOR WEEKLY MASS - We are looking for new readers—especially younger parishioners—to help proclaim the Word at our weekly Masses. If you'd like to get involved and serve in a meaningful way, this is a wonderful opportunity. Guidance and support are provided. Interested? Please speak to Fr John after Mass or email the Parish Office.

CONFIRMATION 2026 The next Confirmation Group will meet on **Friday; 17th April at 18.30 in the Parish Centre**. Please note that the **CONFIRMATION RETREAT WILL TAKE PLACE ON SATURDAY, 20TH MARCH** We shall be leaving from St Margaret's at 10.00 am and return by 15.00pm. Please make sure you arrive on time to depart from the Church at 10.00.

FATHER JOHN NEEDS YOUR HELP!! – Due to the increased number of people seeking to know more about the Catholic faith and to be received into the Catholic Church, we need to recruit from the people from the parish who will act as catechist for the sacramental preparations of our children and young people and also catechists to help with the groups preparing adults for Baptism or being received into the church, If you are a teacher or have experience of being a catechist and would be interested in helping, please speak to Fr John or email the office for more information., Training is available for new catechists, and this is a position in the parish which will require a DBS check for safeguarding.

GIFT AID NOTICE - The Gift Aid envelopes for the 2026/27 financial year are now available for collection after Masses at the weekends. You may also collect them from the parish office during office hours. Please note that envelopes have only been issued to those who used them in the current financial year. If you do not find yours, please leave your name, envelope number and contact number for the Gift Aid organiser to get back to you.
Thank you for your continued generosity.

EASTER DUTIES: At Easter, we are asked to go to confession and receive Holy Communion between Ash Wednesday and Pentecost Sunday. Confession Thursday night 7.30 pm – 8.30 pm and Saturday 5 pm – 6 pm

ADULT CONFIRMATION – The next meeting will be on **Monday, 23rd March, in the Parish Centre at 6.30 pm.**

LECTIO DIVINA: The next meeting will be on **Wednesday, 25th March, at 7 pm in St Margaret's Convent.**

DIOCESAN PILGRIMAGE TO WALSINGHAM – 23RD MAY 2026: Join Bishop Alan and other parishes around the Diocese of Brentwood in Walsingham. We will celebrate Mass at the Basilica before walking the Holy Mile to the grounds of Walsingham Abbey to celebrate Vespers and Benediction on the site of the Holy House. If you would like to come, please contact the parish office.

ARISE | THE PARISH GROUP FOR YOUNG ADULTS. This group is for young adults between the ages of 18 and 40. It meets every other week on a Friday night upstairs in the Parish Centre. The next meeting will take place on **Friday, 27th March 2026, from 7-9 pm** (arrive when you can) - You can join the WhatsApp group chat on the notice board at the back of the church via QR code or for more information speak with the priest If you are new to the Parish, you would be very welcome to come along and meet some new local friends.

ST HELEN'S CATHOLIC PRIMARY SCHOOL - NURSERY APPLICATIONS - If you have a child born between 1st September 2022 and 31st August 2023, and would like to apply for a place at St Helen's Nursery, please visit our [website here](#) for application forms and more information or visit the school office. Posters with a QR Code are also displayed at the back of the Church. If you would like to visit the Nursery for a tour, please come along on a Wednesday at either 9am or 2:30pm.



FIRST HOLY COMMUNION PARISH GROUP SESSIONS – April sessions for the children who have registered to make their First Holy Communion are: Saturday, 18th April, in the parish centre. (This is only for the parish group, not the children in St Helens. The Mass for **ALL** children registered will take place on **Sunday, 19th April, in the Convent Chapel at 10 am. THE NEXT PARENTS' MEETING FOR ALL PARENTS WILL TAKE PLACE SATURDAY, 18TH APRIL, 10 AM IN THE PARISH HALL.**

LAST WEDNESDAY CLUB – Will unfortunately will not take place on Wednesday 25th March, but will resume for St George's Day celebration on Wednesday 29th April between 2pm-4pm.

REPOSITORY SHOP We now have a Repository Shop in both Churches. The shops sell rosaries, statues, cards, medals, and candles and many other religious items. The Shop at St Margaret's is open daily from after Mass until 12. Noon, and the shop at the Convent is open after Mass

BISHOP ALAN WILLIAMS Bishop Alan will be 75 in March, and this is the age for retirement for Bishops. So let us remember him at this time and pray for the guidance of the Holy Spirit in the appointment of a new Bishop for our Diocese.

THE PARISH 50/50 DRAW RESULT FEBRUARY 25 - THE MARCH 50/50 DRAW IS NOW OPEN.

Remember, if you're not in it, you can't win it!!! Tickets £1 on sale after Mass.

FEBRUARY DRAW 1st PRIZE TICKET NUMBER 05857, 2nd PRIZE TICKET NUMBER 06232, 3rd PRIZE TICKET NUMBER 05246. The total amount raised in February was £844.00, £422.00 will be prize money, and £422.00 go towards the maintenance of the churches. If you have one of the winning tickets, please write your name and contact details on the back of the ticket, and please email the parish office to arrange a convenient time to discuss payment options. Congratulations to the winners!

TO MAKE A DONATION PLEASE SCAN THE QR CODE FOR THE APPROPRIATE AMOUNT

Donate £3.00	Donate £5.00	Donate £10.00	Donate £20.00
			

WEEKLY COLLECTION

Plate Collection £887.02 | Envelopes £751.40 | Digital Plates £608.00 | Total **£2246.42**

Thank you for your generous support of the Parish

WEEKLY PARISH SURGERY	If you wish to speak to Fr John about Baptism, Marriage, the signing of forms or any other matters, please come to the Parish Surgery each Monday between 5.30 and 6.30 in the Parish Centre
PARISH OFFICE	THE PARISH OFFICE is open 5 days a week from 9am until 1pm. All normal enquiries can be made by phone 0207 476 4129 or email, canningtown@brcdt.org . All enquires made after 1pm will be answered the next working day.
ARE YOU INTERESTED IN BECOMING A CATHOLIC?	If you are considering becoming a Catholic or would like to know more about the Catholic faith then please have a word with Fr John. You may like to go online and have a look at the following websites. www.catholic.com/tract/how-to-become-a-catholic https://mycatholic.life/rcia/ Meeting every Tuesday at 6.30pm
REPOSITORY	The Repository Shop for the sale of religious articles is open from 10.00 – 12.00 Noon, seven days a week, and after the 12 Noon Mass on Sundays.
BAPTISM	Baptisms are celebrated on the First and Third Saturday of the month at 12.00, apart from August. Registration for Baptism can be made on any Monday at the Parish Surgery between 5.30 and 6.30 pm in the Parish Centre behind St Margaret's Church. Baptism Preparation usually takes place on the second Saturday of the month, at 10.00 in the Parish Centre, when the date of the baptism will be confirmed.
FIRST HOLY COMMUNION	The preparation for the Sacraments of First Confession and First Holy Communion takes place each year. There are two Groups: St Helens Group, for children attending the Parish School, and the Parish Group, for children attending Catholic schools outside of the Parish and children attending Non-Catholic Schools. Registration for both groups takes place in October each year.
CONFIRMATION	REGISTRATION has now taken place. Anyone wishing to make their confirmation, please see Fr John.
MARRIAGE	Couples who wish to get married must give at least SIX MONTHS' notice. This is vitally important for those who are getting married abroad. Please see Fr. John
ANOINTING OF THE SICK	People wishing to receive the Sacrament of the Sick, who are housebound or in hospital, should contact one of the priests. If you are in hospital, ask the nursing staff to call for the Duty Catholic Chaplain or call the Parish phone number 0207 476 4129
FUNERALS	If a family member or friend has died, please let us know so that we may remember them at Mass. In regard to the Funeral arrangements, please contact a local Undertaker who will liaise with the Parish to arrange your requirements for the funeral. If you need to find an Undertaker, please speak to one of the priests.
CERTIFICATES	BAPTISMAL AND CONFIRMATION CERTIFICATES. The Parish issues these certificates are an important document. Please make sure you keep them safe. We are experiencing a high demand of requests for Copies of the original certificates. This presents a great demand on a very small Parish Office. So, in the future, if you wish to have a copy, there will be an administrative fee of £5.00

PARISH CONTACTS	
Parish Secretary: Marie O'Hanlon	Monday – Friday 9am – 1pm 020 7476 4129
Franciscan Missionaries of Mary (FMM)	Sister Agnes, St Margaret's Convent Bethell Avenue, E16 4JU 020 7511 3463
Franciscan Friars of the Renewal (CFR)	Father Francesco, St Fidelis Friary Killip Close E16 1LX 020 7474 0766
St Helen's School	Headteacher: Claire Doherty Chargeable Lane, E13 8DW 020 7476 1785
Parish Safeguarding Officer	Mary West 0207 476 4129 – canningtown@brcdt.org
Parish Sister:	Sister Barbara 020 8525 4229/07591016649
St Bonaventure's Boys School;	Headteacher: Chris McCormack Boleyn Rd, Forest Gate, E7 9QD 0208472 2749
St Angela's Girls School	Headteacher: Mark Johnson, St George's Rd, Forest Gate E7 8HX 020 8472
Youth Representative	smctyouthcouncil@gmail.com